

Message Text

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60

ORIGIN EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03 NEA-10

NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 USIA-15 TRSE-00 MBFR-03

SAJ-01 NSC-10 H-03 DODE-00 AF-10 OMB-01 /104 R

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8/10/73 EXT.28901

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P R 102130Z AUG 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION NATO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ROME

INFO USNMR SHAPE

USCINCEUR

CINCUSNAVEUR

CINCLANT

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 158822

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: MARR, NATO, IT

SUBJECT: U.S. NAVAL FORCES IN THE MEDITERRANEAN

REF: (A) USNATO 3742; (B) USNATO 3752; (C) ROME 8083

1. WE SHARE YOUR CONCERN THAT ITALIAN FOCUS ON NAVAL SITUATION IN THE MEDITERRANEAN COULD DISTRACT NATO FROM MORE IMPORTANT ISSUES. OUR SHORT-TERM OBJECTIVE WILL BE TO KEEP THIS MATTER OFF THE DPC AGENDA EXCEPT IN THE CONTEXT OF THE NORMAL PROCESS OF EXAMINING THE REPLIES TO THE QUESTIONNAIRE FOR THE 1973 DEFENSE PLANNING REVIEW.

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2. WE HAVE AS YET HEARD NOTHING FROM THE ITALIANS IN WASHINGTON ON THIS SUBJECT. IN VIEW OF REPORT CONTAINED IN ROME'S 8083, WE BELIEVE IT WOULD BE PREFERABLE TO LET EMBASSY ROME SORT OUT GOI POSITION ON THIS QUESTION BEFORE INITIATING ANY MILITARY-TO-MILITARY CONSULTATIONS, WHICH COULD TAKE PLACE IN ROME IF THAT APPEARS DESIRABLE. PENDING CLARIFICATION, AND ASSUMING ITALIANS DO NOT RAISE ISSUE HERE, WE PREFER TO KEEP DISCUSSIONS IN BRUSSELS UNTIL WE RECEIVE RECOMMENDATIONS FROM ROME PROMISED REFTEL. ROGERS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 AUG 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: boyleja
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973STATE158822
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: LTC RTHOMPSON:DSD
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS MCGUIRE
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730844/aaaabgde.tel
Line Count: 70
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ORIGIN EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: (A) USNATO 3742; (B) USNATO 3752; (C,) ROME 8083
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: boyleja
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <14-Aug-2001 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <21-Sep-2001 by boyleja>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: U.S. NAVAL FORCES IN THE MEDITERRANEAN
TAGS: MARR, IT, NATO
To: NATO ROME
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005